communication system to keep pace with time. Apart from advisories, the Central Government has been providing, since 1969, financial assistance to the State Government through its scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces as well as by releasing money on the basis of the recommendations of the Finance Commissions. The multi-crore project viz., Crime-Criminal Information System, providing for a computer in each of the districts in the country, has been also implemented by the Central Government. These computers will be linked to each other in due course.

**Paramilitary Forces to Nab Veerappan**

847. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Paramilitary Forces have been engaged to arrest/nab the sandalwood smuggler Veerappan and if so, the details of the number of personnel so deployed since last three years and the expenditure incurred on this specified project;

(b) whether Veerappan has kidnapped recently some State officials and the State Governments have requested the Central Government for assistance; and

(c) if so, the action taken on State Government's requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFARIS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) As per information available, the BSF was deployed in Karnataka for operations against Veerappan as indicated below:

05.06.93 to 16.03.94 — 5 coys

16.03.94 to 31.08.94 — 2 coys

31.08.94 to 15.04.95 — 1 coy

As per information furnished by the State Government of Karnataka, an expenditure of Rs. 12.37 crores was incurred by the state government, from 9.4.1990 to 28.2.1997, for the purpose of nabbing Veerappan.

(b) and (c) As per information available Veerappan had kidnapped 16 officials belonging to the Karnataka Forest Department recently. All of them have been set free. In the wake of the kidnapping of these individuals by Veerappan, the state govt. of Karnataka has requested the Central Government for assistance in the form of Central Para-Military Force to nab Veerappan. In a meeting subsequently held in the Home Ministry with senior officials of both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka it was decided that Tamil Nadu Police and Karnataka Police should have a joint command and upgrade intelligence collection before launching operation to nab Veerappan. Trained Commandoes of the Central Police Force will then be deputed, as and when necessary, to assist the joint command of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the operation.

**Reservation of Seats for Muslims**

848. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Hon'ble Defence Minister's statement which appeared in the Asian Age, dated 18th August, 1997 that there should be reservation of seats for Muslims:

(b) whether this represents Government's policy; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government would explain such gross violation of joint responsibility of the Cabinet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration for providing reservation of seats for Muslims.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to (b) above.

**CBI Requests for Prosecution Pending with Government**

849. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of CBI requests for prosecution pending with Government; and

(b) the names of persons figuring in these matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) According to information available, the request of the CBI for sanction of prosecution in 58 cases is pending with various Central Government Ministries/Departments. It would not be appropriate to disclose the names of the persons involved in these cases at this stage.

**Train Dacoities in Orissa**

850. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted any enquiry about the train dacoities committed several times near Kuhudi in Khurdha Division (Orissa).

(b) whether any action has been taken against the persons incharge; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. It is for the State Government to conduct such enquiries and take further necessary action. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

**Arrest of Women at Night**

851. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the established norms and procedure to arrest women at night in the country;

(b) whether Government proposed to make any amendments in the Cr.P.C. to stop the arrest of women at night; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be made and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) On the basis of the recommendation of the Law Commission a proposal has been made in the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1994 to insert a new sub-section (4) of section 46 Cr. P.C. with a view to prohibit arrest of a woman after sun-set and before sun-rise except in unavoidable circumstances. The Bill was subsequently referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs which considered the Bill and submitted its report.

**Smuggling of children to Middle East**

852. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that children are still being smuggled out from India to Middle East countries, particularly, Saudi Arabia, for begging;

(b) whether any estimate has been made of the number of children smuggled out; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop this trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) According to information available, 226 children had reportedly gone to Saudi Arabia during 1996 on a pilgrimage. These children, most of them handicapped, were deported to India during 1997. Procedures have been tightened to ensure that children travelling abroad are accompanied by their parents and are not taken by unauthorised persons. Migration authorities have been specifically instructed to scrutinise particulary the documents of the handicapped children being taken to Saudi Arabia on a pilgrimage.

**Action on Vohra Committee Report**

853. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether transparency demands that the Government publish the full Vohra Committee Report and to take action in consultation with the national parties; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken